Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5317

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USNATO BRUSSELS 851

CONFIDENTIAL USUN 3073

USNATO FOR AMB BLAKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN CA XF CY

SUBJ: CHANGING CANADIAN ATTITUDES ON PEACEKEEPING

1. CANADIAN MISSION OFFERED SOME INTERESTING INSIGHTS INTO EVOLVING CANADIAN THINKING ON PEACEKEEPING DURING SEPT 5 US-CANADA PRE-UNGA BILATERALS.

A. EXSTAFF DIRECTOR DEFENSE RELATIONS MARSHALL DESCRIBED CANADIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AS FAR MORE "HARDNOSED" THAN BEFORE. HE REHEARSED CANADIAN MILITARY'S DISPLEASURE AT UNFICYP'S NICOSIA AIRPORT DEPLOYMENT IN JULY TO PREVENT TURKISH TAKEOVER, AND SAID INCIDENT UNDERSCORED NEED FOR STRICTLY APPLIED MANDATE AND OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVES. MARSHALL ANTICIPATED INCREASINGLY SHARP PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONING OF CANADA'S ROLE IN CURRENT AND FUTURE OPERATIONS. HE DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE END CONFIDENTIAL

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CANADA'S LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO PEACEKEEPING WOULD WEAKEN.

B. CANADIAN PERMREP RAE SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED TWO NEW STRAINS IN OTTAWA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ONGOING OPERATIONS. FIRST, WAS STRONG SENSE OF NEED FOR CLEAREST POSSIBLE DEFINITION OF A FORCE'S RESPONSIBILITIES. SECOND WAS RECOGNITION OF LIMITATIONS OF PKO'S: UNLESS PARTIES AGREED FULLY TO ACTIVITES OF A FORCE, OPERATION WAS--AS IN TURKISH-OCCUPIED CYPRUS--VIRTUALLY HELPLESS.

- 2.ANSWERING OUR QUERY, CANADIANSSAID THEY DID NOT BELIEVE NEED FOR MORE CLEARLY DEFINED RESPONSIBILITIES IN NEW CYPRUS SITUATION REQUIRED OPENING MANDATE IN SECURITY COUNCIL. THEY HAD NO DESIRE ROCK THE BOAT; THEY WOULD BE HAPPY IF SYG WERE TO ISSUE NEW, DETAILED OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR UNFICYP, AND THEN INFORM COUNCIL.
- 3. WE NOTED THAT PARTIES' ATTITUDES COULD INDEED BE INHIBITING, BUT THEY COULD ALSO BE ALTERED. CANADA WAS IN STRONG POSITION TO INFLUENCE PARTIES BECAUSE OF ITS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS AND MIDDLE EAST DISPUTANTS. MOREOVER, ALL PARTIES HIGHLY VALUED CONTINUED CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNFICYP, UNEF AND UNDOF. AS AMB SCALI PUT IT, CANADIANS WERE THE "GOOD GUYS". THEY WERE CONSIDERED FAIR AND IMPARTIAL, AND OFTEN HAD LEVERAGE WHERE U.S. DID NOT. SEVERAL OF CANADIANS LATER TOLD US THEY WERE TOUCHED BY THIS TRIBUTE AND OTTAWA WOULD BE GRATIFIED TO HEAR SUCH WORDS. SCALI

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